
Exploring Nursing Competency and Care Issues in an Infirmary Hospital in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat

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ABSTRACT

Nursing competency and Quality of care are important in providing safe and effective patient services. In the infirmary, many challenges can affect nursing competency and care. This study aims to explore nurses' experiences, care issues, and the impact of competence on the quality of care and patient experience, and to develop an enhancement plan. The study found that the nursing competency in the infirmary hospital comes from continuous learning through actual clinical exposure, mentorship of senior nurses, and participation in seminars and training. Daily multitasking and limited resources help strengthen nurses' adaptability, critical thinking, and decision-making skills. However, major problems such as a lack of staff, high workload, stress, fatigue, and burnout were also observed, affecting the performance and emotional well-being of nurses. In addition, the lack of medical supplies, equipment, and limited institutional support has reduced the quality of service and delayed the provision of proper patient care. Despite this, nurses remain committed and adjust by prioritizing patient needs and teamwork. Nursing competency is seen to directly affect patient safety, trust, communication, and satisfaction, as well as patient recovery outcomes. Nursing competency is continuously developed through experience and learning. More training, additional staff, and strengthening of patient education are recommended to improve the quality of care.

Keywords: Patient safety, Clinical judgment, Patient-centered care, Nursing competence, Communication skills.

INTRODUCTION

Nursing practice is ever-increasing in a variety of ways and settings. The focus of all nursing practice is the client, who may be an individual, a family, or a community group; thus, nurses must be competent in carrying out their functions to deliver holistic, high-quality health care to clients (Northouse, 2020). On the global scale, the most common nursing errors are medication errors, chart-related mistakes, and transcription errors (Shrefler 2019). In the Philippines, there is a lack of research on the frequency and statistics of nursing errors. In the field of nursing, competency is required, as it serves not only as an essential motivation for the nurse's role but also as a necessity for both professional and academic commitment (Competency-Based Practice 2021). Meanwhile, in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, specifically at the selected infirmary hospital, it has been observed that there are current issues with competencies and patient care among nurses.

Statement of the Problem

This study aimed to explore nursing competencies and care issues in an infirmary hospital in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, as a basis for a Professional Enhancement Nursing Plan.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the experiences of nurses in nursing competency in the infirmary hospital in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat?
2. What are the care issues that nurses face in their daily care of patients?
3. How do nurses describe the impact of nursing competency on quality of care and patient experience?
4. What recommendations do nurses have for improving the issues in nursing competencies and quality care?

Scope and Delimitations

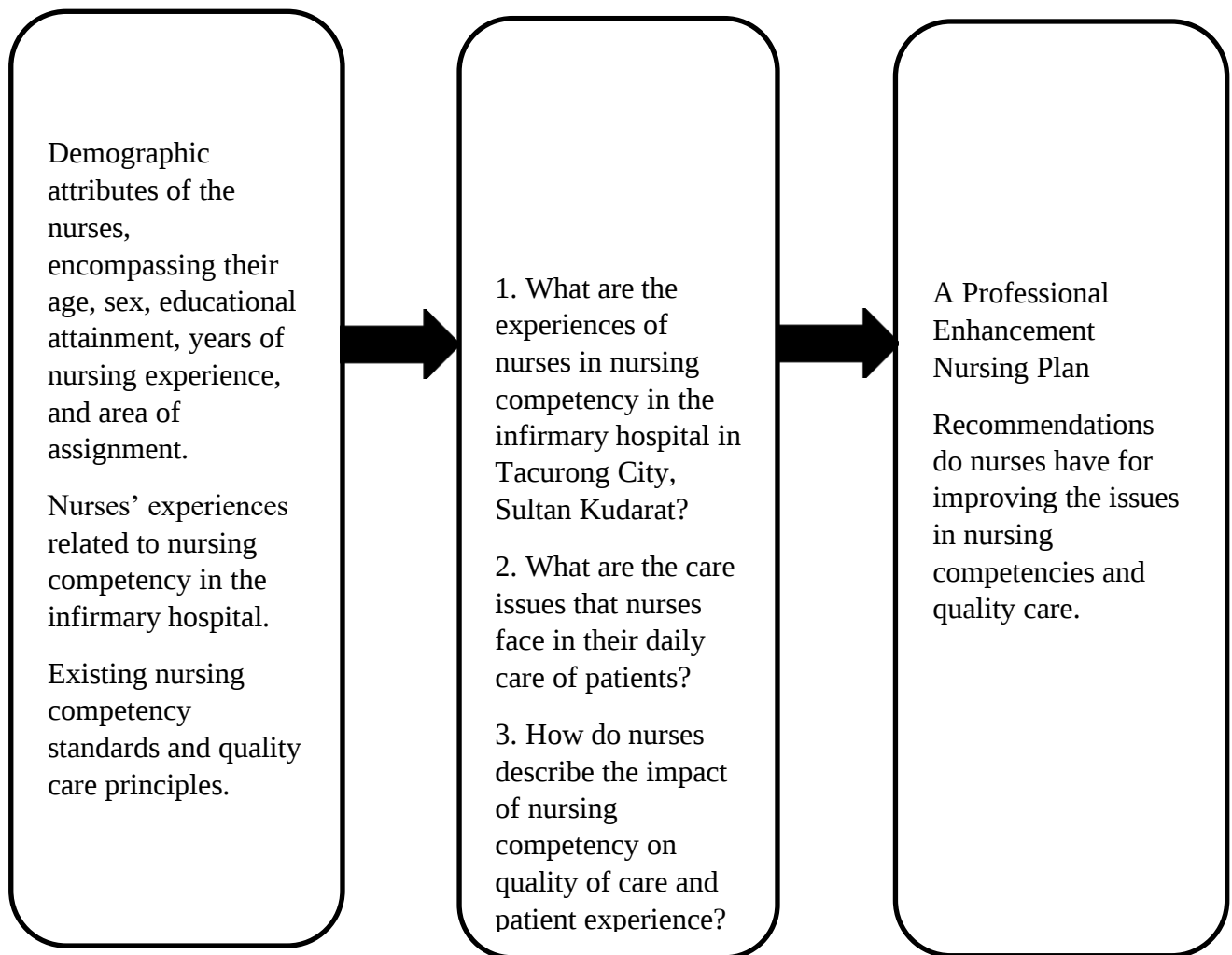
This study assessed the nursing competency of staff nurses against the core competency standards for nurses, as well as the care issues at Infirmary Hospital, as a basis for the development of a professional Enhancement program for nurses at Infirmary Hospital.

Review of Related Literatures

The nursing profession is expected to undergo substantial transformations in the coming years due to rapidly evolving sociocultural, environmental, and technological changes. Defining and assessing nursing competencies are essential to ensuring high-quality care and fostering professional development. A comprehensive search was conducted using PubMed and Web of Science databases. Search strings were developed using a combination of key terms such as “nursing competencies” or “nursing competence” and the health care systems (published in January and December 2023). Comprehensive nursing is a care service focused on recognizing and integrating the biological, psychological, social, cultural, or spiritual environments and modalities in everyday life and clinical practice. Besides, it is also able to create nursing and healing services for patients (Barbara Montgomery Dossey, 2020).

Conceptual Framework

The study's conceptual framework uses the IPO model. The input includes nurses' experience with nursing competence, the issues they face in daily care, the impact of competence, and their recommendations to improve the quality of care.



METHODOLOGY

This qualitative research study examined the impact of gamification on student engagement and learning outcomes in mathematics courses in various educational contexts in the Philippines.

Research Design

This study will include defining the study's scope, the profile, competencies, and care issues, reviewing the relevant literature, and obtaining institutional approval. Ethical Approval was secured before conducting surveys or focus groups to collect data on clinical skills.

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Data Collection and Sample Selection

The study sample consisted of staff nurses working in the infirmary hospital in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat. The participants in this study will be selected based on the following

criteria: they are regular staff nurses who have passed the 6-month probationary period and have been practicing as full-time staff nurses at the institution, working in the infirmary hospital of Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, and who voluntarily participate in the study. The sample size is around 30 nurses for qualitative research (Bisht, 2024). Data collected through semi-structured interviews with the staff nurses and lasting 20 minutes to 30 minutes.

Data Analysis Methods

Thematic analysis was employed to analyze the data collected using Braun and Clarke's six phases. Significant statements were identified and grouped into thematic clusters to describe nursing competencies and care issues in an infirmary hospital in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, as a basis for the Professional Enhancement Nursing Plan.

Research Hypotheses and Validation

This study aimed to test the hypothesis that nursing competency significantly impacts the quality of care and patient experience in the infirmary hospital. Also, care issues such as staff shortages and limited resources significantly impact nurses' performance and efficiency in providing quality services. Furthermore, the implementation of the Professional Enhancement Nursing Plan has a significant impact on the development of nursing competency and the quality of patient care in the infirmary hospital.

Study Limitations and Ethical Considerations

Various ethical considerations were addressed in this study, including informed consent, voluntary participation, risks, benefits, safety, and data privacy. In this study, the participants will be given an informed consent form that includes permission for the researchers' names and affiliations, the reason for the study, and the anticipated length of the investigation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SOP 1. What are the experiences of nurses in nursing competency in the infirmary hospital in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat?

The results show that nurses in the infirmary hospital learn and develop their knowledge through their daily work and duties.

Continuous Learning and Skill Development. Exposure to real-life scenarios teaches them how to handle various patient conditions and provide effective nursing care. New nurses rely on the guidance and experience of those who have been in the profession for a long time to improve their skills and correct their mistakes. Working together in the workplace strengthens their confidence and provides an opportunity for continuous improvement.

SUMMARY

The study showed that nurses' experience in the infirmary hospital shaped their nursing competency through continuous learning and hands-on experience. It was discovered that nurses develop their knowledge through daily patient care, mentorship from senior nurses, and participation in seminars and training. On the other hand, it was found that nurses face major problems, such as a lack of staff and heavy workloads, which lead to stress, fatigue, and burnout. In addition, the lack of equipment, medication, and system support affects the quality

of patient care. Regarding the impact of nursing competence, it was found to have a direct relationship with patient safety, trust, closeness between patient and nurse, and better treatment outcomes. Continuous training and professional development, increased hiring of nurses to address the workload problem, and strengthening patient education to improve patient participation in their health care are recommended.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the study's results, it was shown that nursing competency is not only acquired in school but also continues through practice, mentorship, and continuous learning. Experience in the infirmiry hospital shows that nurses develop strong clinical skills through hands-on experience and multitasking, despite limited resources. It is also seen that the lack of staff and equipment is a serious problem that affects the quality of service and the health of the nurses themselves. Finally, it has been shown that a high level of nursing competency positively affects patient safety, trust, satisfaction, and overall health outcomes. Therefore, nurses' competence is an important foundation for quality healthcare delivery.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are suggested:

First, continuous training, seminars, and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) should be developed to keep nurses' knowledge and skills up to date. This helps to strengthen their clinical competence and confidence in patient care. Second, more staff nurses need to be hired and workloads properly distributed to avoid burnout, fatigue, and medical errors. Adequate staffing is important to ensure that each patient receives quality care. Third, it is recommended to strengthen patient education and engagement to help patients better understand their condition and treatment. Through this, patient cooperation will improve, treatment adherence will increase, and recovery will be accelerated.

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AI DECLARATION STATEMENT

AI-supported tools helped with grammar and structure in creating this article. No AI tools were used to collect, analyze, or interpret data; all authors are credited for their academic contributions.

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